



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Traffic Deaths Down Thanksgiving Weekend**

#### *D.U.I. Arrests Up Over Last Year*

(SACRAMENTO) The number of traffic deaths statewide dropped dramatically this past Thanksgiving holiday weekend from last year, the California Highway Patrol reports. A total of 42 people were killed this year between 6pm Wednesday and Midnight Sunday. During the same period last year, 60 people died on California roadways.

“Hopefully, this is an indication that people are getting our message; don’t drink and drive, keep the speed down and always wear your seat belts,” said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown.

Many of those who didn’t get the message paid the price. DUI arrests by CHP officers totaled 1,669 this Thanksgiving holiday compared to 1,521 last year.

During the four-day Maximum Enforcement Period, up to eighty percent of CHP’s officers were on the road. “Clearly the enhanced enforcement efforts paid off,” noted Commissioner Brown. “Frankly, I believe these arrests prevented tragedies for many motorists and kept this holiday from being any bloodier than it was.”

None of the eight CHP field divisions showed an increase in fatalities over Thanksgiving weekend 2005.

With the Christmas and New Year’s holidays fast approaching, the CHP warns that similar Maximum Enforcement Periods will be in effect during those holiday weekends.

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